

Educational Service Unit #5

Board Minutes

February 12, 2024

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5 in Beatrice, Nebraska. Present were board members Roger Smidt, Betty Meyer, Tim McAllister, and Carla Loemker; Administrator Brenda McNiff; Board Treasurer Jan Reimer; Board Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking. Board members Jeannine Murphy, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, and Duane Smith were absent.

President Roger Smidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He acknowledged this was an open meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and notice of such was published in the Beatrice Daily Sun and Hebron Journal Register the week of January 31, 2024.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed on 4-0 roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the meeting minutes of the November 2023 meeting; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Tim McAllister moved to approve the Treasurer's report from December 11, 2023 and ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$545,685.97; seconded by Betty Meyer. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Carla Loemker moved to approve the Treasurer's report from January 8, 2024 and ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$512,897.64; seconded by Betty Meyer. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Board Treasurer Jan Reimer presented the Treasurer's report for February 12, 2024. Tim McAllister moved to approve the treasurer's report and authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$545,922.35; seconded by Betty Meyer. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote. Treasurer Reimer also reported that the Audit in November had gone well and no discrepancies were found.

Old Business

Administrator McNiff began the process of reorganization of the ESU 5 Board of Director's officer positions. Administrator McNiff opened nominations for Board President. Carla Loemker nominated Roger Smidt for the position of President and moved nominations cease with a unanimous vote cast for Roger Smidt to serve as President; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Betty Meyer nominated Vicki Hinz-Ensz for the position of Vice President and moved nominations cease with a unanimous vote cast for Vicki Hinz-Ensz to serve as Vice President; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt nominated Duane Smith for the position of Board Secretary and moved nominations cease with a unanimous vote case for Duane Smith to serve as Board Secretary; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

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President Smith appointed Jan Reimer as ESU 5 Board Treasurer and Victoria Frerking as ESU 5 Recording Secretary. No vote was necessary.

Roger Smidt moved to retain Security First Bank of Beatrice as the repository and the general fund account bank of ESU 5; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Carla Loemker moved to retain Perry Law Firm as legal counsel for ESU 5; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

New Business

Administrator McNiff expressed the need to hire another Mental Health Practitioner for the 2024-25 school year as multiple ESU 5 district schools have requested additional days for mental health services. Westside Community Schools has also requested one day per week for mental health services. No board action required at this time.

Three ESU 5 school districts have asked ESU 5 to develop an 18-21 Transition Program for students with disabilities for the 2024-25 school year. Administrator McNiff reported this would be a partnership program with SCC Beatrice, offering training and immersion of disabled students into programs and trainings that could be offered at SCC. ESU 5 would provide supervision with one SPED teacher and one paraprofessional for ESU 5 students, maintaining a ratio of one to three. No board action required at this time.

ESU 5 Superintendents are requesting additional Behavioral support. Administrator McNiff informed the board that a second Behavioral Consultant will be added for the 2024-25 school year.

Carla Loemker moved to accept, with regret and best wishes, the resignation of ESU 5 SPED Director Matt McNiff effective June 30, 2024; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Administrator Update

Administrator McNiff informed the board that she has been monitoring teacher negotiations taking place in ESU 5 schools, other Nebraska schools, and other ESU's. She will email board members with her recommendations for ESU 5 staff prior to the March board meeting.

An appreciation dinner for board members and spouses, and department heads and spouses will be held at ESU 5 following the March 11, 2024 board meeting.

Executive Session

Roger Smidt moved that the board go into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss Administrator evaluations; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote.

Carla Loemker moved that the board come out of Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote. The board expressed their appreciation to Administrator

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McNiff for her extra work during staff absences due to accidents and illnesses and her creative approach to initiating and growing innovative programs.

Public Comment

There was no one in attendance to offer public comment on any items.

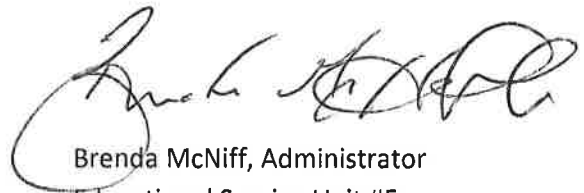
Adjournment

With no further business, President Smidt adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2024 beginning at 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by an appreciation dinner for board members and spouses, and department heads and spouses.



Victoria Frerking, Board Recording Secretary
Educational Service Unit #5
Gage, Jefferson, Thayer Counties
Nebraska



Brenda McNiff, Administrator
Educational Service Unit #5
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